In Thanksgiving
for the Life of

THE REV.
MICHAEL R. BECKER

JULY 22, 1916—MAY 19, 2012

Friday, June 8, 2012
11:00 a.m.

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing,
but life everlasting.

PRELUDE — Scott Joplin
Bethena

OPENING ANTHEM: Book of Common Prayer p. 491

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

One The Lord be with you.
Many And also with you.
One Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother, Michael. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

✠ *You may be seated.*

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:6-9 — Howard Goldstein

One The Word of the Lord.
Many Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121 *(Read by all)*

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17 — Mary Hopkins

One The Word of the Lord.
Many Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 355 — Kontakion

THE GOSPEL: John 6:30-40 The Rev. Sharline Fulton

(Before the reading)

One The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Many Glory to you, Lord Christ.

(After the reading)

One The Gospel of the Lord.

Many Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold, III, Retired

✠ *Please stand.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

One In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Many I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE The Rev. Sean E. Mullen

For our brother, Michael, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Michael, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother, Michael, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

One The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Many And also with you.

The Ministers and people greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM arr. Copland

Shall We Gather at the River? *Alyson Harvey, mezzo-soprano*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One The Lord be with you.

Many And also with you.

One Lift up your hearts.

Many We lift them to the Lord.

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, One proceeds

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are

full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Then One continues
Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

All
We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

One continues
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All
AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One The Lord be with you.
Many And also with you.
One Let us pray.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.
One Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Many Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Clergy invite the people to Communion. Everyone is invited to receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist. If you do not wish to receive the Eucharist, you are invited to please come up for a blessing. Please approach the altar through the center aisle and return to your seats via the side aisles.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER
After Communion, One says
Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

HYMN 620 Land of Rest

THE COMMENDATION The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

One: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant(s) with thy saints,
Many: *where sorrow and pain are no more,*
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

One: You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Many: *Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,*
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

One: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Michael. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

INVITATION TO COMMITTAL & RECEPTION

THE DISMISSAL

One Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Many Thanks be to God.

FINAL ANTHEMS: Book of Common Prayer p. 500

POSTLUDE

THE COMMITTAL

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Michael, and we commit his body to the ground; *earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. *Amen.*

One The Lord be with you.

Many And also with you.

One Let us pray.

Many Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant

O Almighty God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, who by a voice from heaven didst proclaim, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: Multiply, we beseech thee, to those who rest in Jesus the manifold blessings of thy love, that the good work which thou didst begin in them may be made perfect unto the day of Jesus Christ. And of thy mercy, O heavenly Father, grant that we, who now serve thee on earth, may at last, together with them, be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

One Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:

Many *And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

One May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please join us for a reception, immediately following the service and interment, across the drive in the Parish Hall.

XXX

Lectors
Howard Goldstein
Mary Hopkins
The Rev. Sharline Fulton

Intercessor
The Rev. Sean E. Mullen

Preacher
The Most. Rev. Frank T. Griswold, III, Retired

Co-Celebrant
The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.

Celebrant
The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel

Organist
Erik Meyer

Soloist
Alyson Harvey

Crucifer
Nikki Wood

Ushers
Hubert Pressly & John Walton

XXX

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to:

The All Saints' Fund
Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields
8000 St. Martin's Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19118

The Rev. Michael R. Becker was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 22, 1916, the son of Ray Becker and Gertrude Frances. He graduated Illinois College in 1937, received a BA from Carroll College, 1938; MDiv Nashotah House, 1941 ; Fr. Becker was ordained Deacon May 16, 1941 by Bp. Benjamin F. P. Ivins; Priest June 1, 1941 by Bp. John Chandler White. He served as Rector of St. Mark's Church, Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA from 1965-1981. He served as an associate of the Order of the Holy Cross since 1938. During his active ministry he was on a number of Diocesan Committees, Renewal and Evangelism, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, the Theological Scholarship Aid Fund, Diocesan Search Committee, Prayer and Spiritual Growth, Chairman, and his special fields of interest included Stewardship and Evangelism; Spiritual Direction; Homiletics. After retiring, he moved to Chestnut Hill and became a member of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. He later moved to Cathedral Village.